HSS

2020–2021
NEXT STEPS

Caltech hosts its 127th annual commencement ceremony this June, following more than a year of remote instruction and the many other extraordinary circumstances of 2020–2021. The Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences applauds the grit and accomplishments of our departing undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars. Please join us in wishing them well in their future endeavors!

ANASTASIA BUYALSKAYA

Buyalskaya graduates this month after defending her thesis, *Investigating Drivers of Repeated Behaviors in Field Data*, with Colin Camerer as her advisor. Her research interests include consumer behavior, field experiments, experimental design, behavioral economics, and analytic methods. She follows her lab and field experiments with empirical work to analyze human behavior "in the wild." She is currently weighing offers for future employment.

KIYOHITO IIGAYA
Assistant Professor in Neurobiology, Irving Medical Center, Columbia University

Iigaya has been a member of the O'Doherty Lab since 2017. His research goals are to identify computational principles underlying how humans make decisions under uncertainty and to inform the understanding of psychiatric disorders through the study of variation in their neural realization. He and his colleagues in the O'Doherty Lab developed an algorithm to gain an understanding of how the human brain constructs aesthetic value. The study, titled "Aesthetic preference for art can be predicted from a mixture of low- and high-level visual features," was published in *Nature Human Behavior* last month. Iigaya will join the department of psychiatry at Columbia University Irving Medical Center as an assistant professor and open his computational psychiatry/neuroscience lab this fall.

XIAOMIN LI
Postdoctoral Scholar in Behavioral Economics and Neuroeconomics, Caltech

After completing her dissertation, *Attention, Strategy, and the Human Mind*, last summer with Colin Camerer as her advisor, Li joined the Camerer Lab as a postdoctoral scholar. Her research interests include neuroeconomics, behavioral economics, experimental economics, saliency and attention, and behavioral game theory. One of her projects in the Camerer Lab focuses on salience and habit in consumer purchases from a vending machine on campus. She was the recipient of the 2019–2020 Lipper Graduate Fellowship.

CHUJUN LIN
Postdoctoral Researcher in Psychology, Dartmouth College

Following a year as a postdoctoral scholar in the O'Doherty Lab, Lin (PhD '19, social science) joined the Department of Psychological and Brain Science at Dartmouth College as a postdoctoral researcher in psychology last summer. She is interested in how people form impressions about others' traits and mental states and interpret others' behaviors based on limited information. As she continues her postdoctoral training, she plans to use more naturalistic stimuli and computational methods to further understand those questions.

JOSEPH ROOT
Assistant Professor, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago

Root joined Caltech last summer as a postdoctoral researcher in the Center for Social Information Sciences (CSIS), which is part of The Ronald and Maxine Linde Institute of Economic and Management Sciences. His research examines real-life situations that require resources to be allocated to people without the use of money. For example: How should a university allocate housing to students? How should tasks be allocated to workers in a team? Root studies ways of undertaking these activities so that they are fair and consider people's preferences to achieve the best possible outcomes while minimizing the ability of participants to game the system. Root will join the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics at the University of Chicago as an assistant professor this summer.

TOBY WISE
Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellow, University College London

As a postdoctoral scholar in affective computational neuroscience in the Mobbs Lab, Wise conducted research on decision making under threat. In particular, he studied how offline simulation processes might contribute to decisions to avoid potential threats and how this relates to individual differences in trait anxiety. He collaborated with members of the Mobbs Lab to produce a study titled "Changes in risk perception and self-reported protective behaviour during the first week of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States," which was published in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*. This summer, Wise will return to the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research at University College London to continue his Wellcome Fellowship.

CLASS OF 2021

Among the seniors expected to graduate in June, 15 percent (35 out of 241) are completing an option (major) or minor in the humanities or social sciences. One student chose Economics as their first and only option. Thirty students selected one of our tracks for their second option (double major): 24 in Business, Economics, and Management (BEM); four in Economics; and two in English. Three students completed a humanities minor: one in English, one in History, and one in Philosophy.

These students are also taking impressive next steps, including:
- Pursuing advanced degrees, such as a master's degree in computer science at Stanford University, a PhD in chemistry at Yale University, a PhD in physics at the University of Chicago, a PhD in bioengineering at MIT, and a PhD in business (quantitative marketing track) at Stanford Graduate School of Business.
- Joining Microsoft, Uber, and Neeva as software engineers.
- Leaping into finance with positions at Goldman Sachs, Jane Street in Manhattan, DRW in Chicago, and the D. E. Shaw group in Hong Kong.
- Working in spacecraft mechanical engineering at JPL.